- Comprehensive welfare measures will continue to be implemented in close cooperation with the State Governments, for better working environment and the social security of the weavers;
- Effective support systems in research and development, design inputs, skill upgradation and market linkages will be provided;
- The implementation of the Hank Yarn Obligation Order and the Reservation Orders issued under the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 will be reviewed keeping in mind the needs of the handloom weavers;
- Weavers Service Centres will be revamped in consonance with the contemporary trends, and using Information Technology for efficacy, their activities suitably dovetailed with activities of centres of design excellence like NIFT and NID;
- As merchandising and marketing will be central to the success of the handloom sector, the present package of schemes for production of value added fabrics will be streamlined; innovative market-oriented schemes will be introduced; and joint ventures encouraged both at the domestic and international levels. Brand equity of handlooms will be commercially exploited to the extent possible.

Jute Technology Mission

889. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up a Jute Technology Mission with an investment of Rs. 350 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to give importance to diversification of jute for producing other products?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, there is a proposal to set up a Jute Technology Mission with an investment of Rs. 355 crores. However, this is yet to be approved by the Competent Authority.

(c) Yes Sir.